undp

update

Vol. 6, no. 18, 13 September 1993
Published by the Division of Public Affairs,
United Nations Development Programme,
One UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017

Reconstruction of schools, clinics and houses in Bosnia

More than 45 volunteers from Belgium, Canada, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States are helping to rebuild schools, clinics and housing for the elderly in the UN-protected area in Bosnia and Herzegovina known as Sector West. Four Austrians will join the project for one year as Austria's first "peace workers", an alternative system to the country's military or domestic civil service.

UNDP and the United Nations Office in Vienna recently launched the joint reconstruction programme which is funded through more than $2 million in voluntary contributions.

The reconstruction programme includes a campaign to raise $1 million to re-establish the basic paediatrics, gynaecology, internal medicine and surgery services at the local hospital. Plans also include restoring an old-age home in Okucani and the Jankovic Secondary School. In addition, more than $500,000 from private donors helped launch an assistance project for Bosnian women.

Donations to the programme in the UN-protected area continue to arrive. The Netherlands Stichting Vluchteling Foundation contributed building materials and tools. The French Procurement Agency provided office and school furniture. Other donations included toys, medicines, clothing and household items collected from manufacturers and individuals.

Resettling displaced populations in Lebanon

Nearly $29 million is required to help meet needs of the displaced populations in Lebanon, according to a UN team that recently assessed the country's humanitarian situation. More than 350,000 people fled their homes for safer areas during hostilities in South Lebanon and West Bekaa in late July. When these populations began returning to their villages, they found their homes damaged or demolished, shops and farm plots ruined and livestock dead. Roads and public buildings were also destroyed.

This brief but large-scale and intensive conflict occurred at a particularly difficult juncture for Lebanon, as the government was stepping up its efforts to evacuate illegally occupied buildings and to resettle large groups of people displaced during the past war period.

UNDP was one of the UN agencies which responded to the acute emergency needs of the country. It provided priority emergency goods for the returnees, including tents, blankets, bedding and water tanks. These items were procured locally and distributed to an estimated 600 families.

With most of the emergency needs now met, attention shifts towards meeting the short-term humanitarian needs and supporting income-generating activities. A mid-August UN inter-agency mission, led by the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs, assessed the needs in villages and towns that were attacked.

The rehabilitation projects proposed by the UN team are the subject of the present appeal to donors for assistance. The funds will be used mainly for the reconstruction and repair of homes, and procurement of basic equipment and supplies for reconstruction of schools, roads, health care facilities, water supply networks and agricultural systems. The government is pushing for immediate donor support to meet these needs before the onset of winter.

Mega-cities project takes hold in new urban centres

By the year 2000, half of the world's poor people will live in urban areas. As these populations flock to mega-cities, they will

In this issue:

Projects approved: **Prevention and control of AIDS in Brazil • Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Asia**

confront homelessness, unemployment, and life-threatening air and water pollution.

Yet mega-cities are not merely sources of misery and despair, they are also centres of growth and opportunity. They can serve as laboratories for testing innovative approaches to poverty alleviation, income-generation and environmental sustainability. This is the basic idea underlying a one-year Mega-Cities Project which receives support from UNDP's Special Unit for Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries (TCDC). This Special TCDC Unit promotes the transfer of development successes from one developing country to others.

Through this collaborative project, field teams in nine cities worldwide are identifying local initiatives, documenting them as case studies, disseminating the information through an electronic mail network and a forthcoming book, and transferring and adapting innovative experiences within the nine cities.

The cases focus on experiments or pilot projects in which a local community has simultaneously reduced poverty and cleaned their neighbourhood environment. In Rio de Janeiro, for example, a local group trains and pays area residents to build their own sewers, drainage gutters and roads. In Cairo, a small recycling industry operates on locally donated land. Local groups in Bombay manage the cleaning and maintenance of toilets in congested slum areas.

Coordinators from the Mega-Cities Project met in Jakarta, Indonesia last month to refine their methods, report on innovations, and discuss the potential for transferring the initiatives to other locations. One test of the success of this project will be whether any of the innovations actually take root in a new city.

Nepal as a case study on coordinating disaster relief

Recent disaster relief and rehabilitation in Nepal provide an opportunity to test new means for the UN system to respond in a timely and coordinated manner to the immediate and longer-term needs dictated by a natural disaster. The lessons learned in Nepal could guide disaster management and aid coordination approaches in other countries facing urgent disaster situations.

Monsoon rains in July caused flash floods and landslides in Nepal, killing more than 1,000 people, leaving even more without shelter, and causing severe damage to infrastructure.

As head of the UN disaster management team, the UNDP Resident Representative in Kathmandu immediately set up a disaster assistance coordination group which included bilateral and multilateral organizations and NGOs. Relief operations in flood-affected and landslide areas are now in full swing. International assistance continues to arrive. Three UNDP staff members have been working full-time to assist in donor coordination efforts. The UNDP field office in Nepal is also working closely with other donors to determine the next steps to move from emergency relief to rehabilitation and reconstruction.

In the meantime, a disaster relief coordination adviser has been selected to establish a distribution and monitoring system to channel relief aid to affected villages. This distribution network will create a smooth path along which the relief goods will move from the Tribhuvan International Airport, through regional and district stores, to the disaster relief committees in each of the affected districts.

The aid coordination adviser will then produce a guide on what to do in similar disaster situations elsewhere. This document will serve as a manual for UNDP Resident Representatives from disaster-prone countries in Asia and Africa who will attend a disaster management training course in Nepal in December, organized by the UNDP Humanitarian Programme.

Laying the groundwork for donor consultations in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union

Donor Round Tables, organized through UNDP, assist recipient countries to accelerate and improve the quality of technical cooperation aid flows they receive. In an important first step, UNDP analyzes a country's problems and needs in specific sectors. These technical studies form the basis for determining the most appropriate areas of donor support to a particular country.

UNDP will assist in organizing and financing donor meetings for several countries in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Donor consultations are especially important to these countries with economies in transition because many have only recently become recipients of foreign assistance.

Several of these governments have identified specific areas in which foreign assistance is desired, but they require the preparatory work and the donor consultations that will enable them to derive the greatest benefit from the resources available.

Preliminary discussions with each government and the respective UNDP Resident Representatives have tentatively determined that for Albania, one priority area is education. In Azerbaijan, attention is focused on energy and environmental protection. Bulgaria will focus on the social sectors and the energy sector. Latvia will also place priority on the social sectors.

READEX
FICHE

Kazakhstan requires sectoral work for mitigation of fallout from nuclear tests on agriculture and health.

UNDP will support preliminary missions to establish work programmes for each country. It will also undertake technical missions to prepare documentation, provide financing for national consultants, and offer logistical support for the actual donor consultations.

Bolstering Moldova's private sector

The Government of Moldova has taken several steps towards the establishment of a free market economy since its independence in 1991. It has initiated such reforms as promoting its private sector and strengthening its banking system. To further these and other political and economic changes, the government has requested technical assistance from abroad, both from developed and developing countries.

Experts will be sent to Moldova under three different low-cost consultancy services offered by UNDP: Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN), the United Nations International Short-term Advisory Resources (UNISTAR), and UN Volunteers (UNV). Moldova's Ministry of External Economic Relations will be responsible for identifying the technical needs of the country.

A large number of people born in Moldova who have specialized skills in market economy disciplines have settled outside of the country. The TOKTEN programme provides a channel for bringing these experts back to Moldova for short-term consultancies.

The UNISTAR programme will help private sector firms gain access to technical and administrative skills in such fields as management, marketing, strategic planning and finance. UNISTAR provides the services of leading experts and managers who can help solve operational problems of private businesses. It recruits from a diverse international pool of people who have extensive hands-on business experience.

The UN Volunteers programme mobilizes the services of technically proficient volunteers of all ages to assist in the development process. Given the nature of the challenges facing Eastern and Central Europe and the need to recruit many volunteers quickly, UNV has made a special concession that volunteers may take on assignments for less than the usual one to two year period.

Joint energy conservation programme in Asia

A joint programme of UN bodies and bilateral donors will help 23 Asian countries cooperate in identifying and solving energy and environmental problems. The programme will be a shared venture with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the Asia Pacific Development Centre. Funding will come from UNDP and the Governments of Australia and France.

This regional undertaking will provide the 23 countries with tools to produce and use energy in environmentally and economically sound ways. The long-term aim is to promote and enhance regional cooperation in order to make best use of scarce energy resources.

The programme will support the establishment of energy and environmental data bases, and will train technicians and energy planners in the most advanced techniques of producing and utilizing coal. It will also include courses on assessing environmental degradation, as well as rehabilitating areas damaged by petroleum and natural gas exploration.

Approved Projects

(all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

Brazil — The Brazilian Government is aware of the enormous impact that the AIDS epidemic has on the welfare of local communities as well as on the country's economy as a whole. The government, therefore, is determined to decrease the rate of expansion of HIV infection, and enhance the efficiency of health care for AIDS patients.

The government will finalize an HIV/AIDS investment project with the World Bank. The loan project will include components for prevention, treatment services, institutional development, research, evaluation, and testing of vaccines against HIV/AIDS.

A UNDP-supported project, which will be funded through the loan, will provide information and communication tools, such as booklets, radio programmes and community bulletins, which will be used for educating communities on HIV/AIDS prevention. Reference centres and national reference laboratories for AIDS will be established to collect and analyze data on the disease.

Government cost-sharing: $17,995,130. Funds will finance international and national specialists in sexually transmitted diseases, epidemiology, communications, and education. Gov-

emment executed by the National Programme for the Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS in the Ministry of Health. (BRA/92/001)

Regional project

RAS/92/G33—Development of Least-cost Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plans in Asia — Asia is responsible for more than 20 per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. The region's level is estimated to rise to 35 per cent by the year 2025. Greenhouse gases, mainly carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and chlorofluorocarbons are the primary agents of global climate change. UNDP will help strengthen the scientific, technical and institutional capability of the Asia and Pacific region to measure its greenhouse gas emissions. UNDP will also help the participating countries in the region to devise plans for mitigating their emissions of these harmful gases. In addition, the project will support specialized technical assistance and training.

UNDP contribution: $9,500,000. Australian Government contribution: $2,349,000. Funds will finance training, equipment, and international and regional consultants. Executed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and implemented by ADB and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Printed on recycled paper.

United Nations
Development Programme
One UN Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Human Development

UNDP

update

Published by the Division of Public Affairs
United Nations Development Programme
One UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017

Vol. 6, no. 19, 27 September 1993

UNDP joins high level task force for economic and social development of Gaza and Jericho

To support the Israeli-Palestinian accord, and in response to requests he has received from PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Minister for Foreign Affairs Shimon Peres, the UN Secretary-General established a high-level task force to focus on the economic and social development of the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

John Isaac/UN

The task force will focus on UN assistance in Gaza.

Members of the task force include UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth, UNICEF Executive Director James Grant, UNRWA Commissioner-General Ilter Türkman, Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Eliasson, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs James Jonah and special political adviser to the Secretary-General Chinmaya Rajaninath Gharekhan. For 13 years, UNDP has been active in the Israeli-Occupied Territories, contributing more than US$25 million to a programme of assistance to the Palestinian People.

The priorities of the task force, whose work has already begun, will be to establish an integrated United Nations approach towards development in these areas, with a particular focus on Gaza, where needs are greatest. The task force will also coordinate with other institutions, agencies and non-governmental organizations involved in ongoing development projects to avoid duplication of efforts. It will also mobilize international financial support.

In this issue:

Changes proposed in UN election activities – Fighting desert locusts Big plans for small islands – Demining in Mozambique – Approved projects

Black Sea countries join forces to fight pollution

The six countries bordering the Black Sea are banding together to clean up the heavy pollution in the sea. The six coastal countries — Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine — are launching a three-year, $31.6 million project, an important first step toward protecting and restoring this body of water, which ranks among the most polluted in the world.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) will provide $9.3 million for the project. The GEF is a trust fund managed by UNDP, the World Bank and the UN Environment Programme, to assist developing countries in protecting the global environment. The European Community, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the Netherlands will provide financing for the project.

Pollution from 17 countries pours into the Black Sea. Daily, the sea soaks up sewage, pesticides, factory chemicals, and oil from passing ships. As channels through which the toxins can flow from the sea are limited, the pollutants have killed marine life and all but ruined the once prosperous fishing industry.

Pollution causes an estimated loss of $240 million a year to the fishing industry, and $300-$400 million in lost tourism revenue. Moreover, the combined effect of overfishing and pollution has reduced the number of commercial fish species from 26 in the

1960s to only five today.

The Black Sea project will measure the extent to which pollution has damaged the environment, and will plan policies to tackle the problems. Reliable data on the sea's environmental condition will be collected by staff to be trained at national and regional environmental agencies in the six countries. Right now, these agencies do not have staff adequately trained in environmental matters.

The project will give impetus to countries trying to use the sea in a sustainable manner. If the ambitious project is successful, it will have targeted the sea's main pollution sources, trained the right staff in environmental protection, and launched efforts to improve the sea's degraded condition.

Independent report reviews impact of UN electoral assistance

Providing adequate resources to support effective UN system activities in the election field may require reallocating funds and personnel from other areas where the United Nations is currently active, says a recently completed report on United Nations electoral assistance worldwide. An independent review team based their findings on discussions in selected countries with UNDP Resident Representatives, political party leaders and government officials to determine the impact past electoral assistance has had on their countries.

"While recognizing the significance of a successful first election," the report states, "the UN should strive to ensure that election related assistance has a sustainable component."

The Electoral Assistance Unit within the UN responds to requests for electoral support by relying extensively on the financial and personnel resources of UNDP. The report warns that the Unit must develop procedures to avoid involvement in situations where UN participation may be seen as legitimizing potentially flawed election processes. More detailed guidance must be provided to UNDP Resident Coordinators regarding their role in mediating controversies during the pre-election period.

The report also cautions that the relationships between UN organs and non-governmental organizations should be clarified during election activities. The Electoral Assistance Unit, in particular, has successfully drawn upon the institutional expertise of international NGOs and supported emerging domestic organizations. Nonetheless, the challenges of United Nations collaboration with institutionally autonomous organizations in the politically sensitive area of elections should not be underestimated.

It makes other recommendations and analyzes the extent to which the UN has expanded its role in elections. During the past 18 months, for example, more than 36 countries have requested UN electoral assistance. The reach of support from the UN includes technical assistance, coordination of election observers, and support for election administration, supervision, and verification. The report concludes that given the funds required for certain types of electoral involvement, reallocating resources could produce a dramatic shift in the development and human rights activities undertaken by the UN in the future.

Combatting the looming locust threat

A major outbreak of locusts is occurring in the deserts of Sindh and Punjab in Pakistan and across the border in India. The locust attack is Pakistan's worst in nearly three decades and could threaten the country's vital cotton crops in Punjab and the sugarcane crops in Sindh.

The sense of urgency has united India and Pakistan in a fight against a common foe. The two countries are cooperating in the launch of a large-scale locust emergency operation on both sides of their border.

The United Nations system is coordinating international assistance. A UN disaster management team, spearheaded by the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Pakistan, is in place and maintaining daily contacts with the Pakistani authorities to ensure links between local control efforts and international support in the fight against the menace.

International donors have been requested to provide equipment and chemicals for use by Pakistan's Plant Protection Department. The aim is to try and prevent this time bomb in the desert from exploding across the region. Donors are providing similar assistance to India.

If these control operations cannot contain the outbreak, then swarms could migrate back across the Arabian Sea to Yemen and Saudi Arabia, starting a cycle of plagues that could last two to three years.

Mozambique undertakes massive de-mining operation

At least two million mines line the borders and rural centres of Mozambique. The presence of these explosives prevents delivery of humanitarian assistance by road, hinders road and bridge repair, and interferes with the safe passage of refugees and displaced persons returning to their homes.

UNDP's Office for Project Services will execute a programme of mine clearance for 2,000 kilometres of roads situated on border-crossing routes. The cleared roadways will facilitate distribution of humanitarian aid to three million displaced and drought-affected people, and smooth the way for repatriation of one million refugees returning from neighbouring countries.

Helicopters must be used in areas that have been mined in Mozambique.

UNDP

Experience with mine clearance operations in Cambodia and Afghanistan has shown that long-term mine clearance must eventually become the work of the country concerned. This project, therefore, will help set up a centrally managed system to build national mine clearance capabilities. This ambitious goal will take time. Technicians must receive training before working in live minefields. Training programmes must run in conjunction with the military demobilization process because most of the mine-clearing recruits will be former soldiers.

The United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs Trust Fund will provide $8.3 million for this effort. The United Nations Operation in Mozambique will contribute $7 million.

Big plans for small islands

Preparations are underway for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be held in April 1994 in Barbados. The Committee charged with overseeing preliminary negotiations met earlier this month at UN Headquarters.

The Global Conference was called for at the Earth Summit — the UN Conference on Environment and Development — held in Brazil in May 1992. Its goal is to put together a strategy for sustainable development specific to small islands, based on Agenda 21, the comprehensive global plan adopted at the Earth Summit.

"This conference will be the first international test of commitments made at Rio," says Ross Mountain, UNDP Resident Representative in Barbados. At the Summit, small islands were designated as an ecologically vulnerable group warranting special international attention. While some problems of small islands are directly tied to their size and geographic isolation, many are closely linked to unsustainable development patterns worldwide.

UNDP has supported activities related to the Conference, including two regional technical meetings held in Vanuatu and Trinidad and Tobago earlier this year. UNDP also supported NGO participation at the UN preparatory meeting, and is facilitating the display of a sustainable development technology exhibition in Barbados at the time of the Conference.

One main concern of islands is the effect of projected global warming, primarily caused by carbon dioxide emissions in industrialized countries. The potential rise in sea levels threatens to submerge many low-lying islands, and would significantly damage coastal zones worldwide.

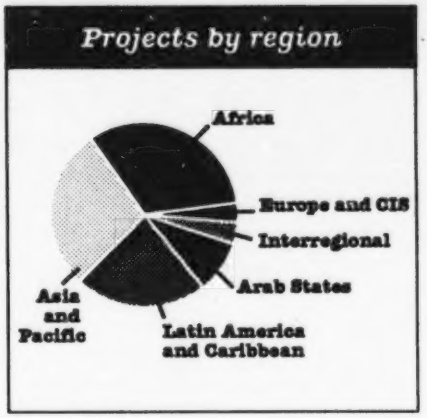
Climate change is just one of a multitude of problems, however, that combine to make small islands economically and ecologically vulnerable. Many islands have fragile economies, dependent on the export of one or two commodities or on tourism — both subject to fluctuations in the world market. The dumping of toxic and radioactive waste from industrialized countries is also a major concern.

Proposed solutions to some of these island-specific problems, especially recommendations to improve management of fisheries and coastal zones, might have a positive global ripple effect. In the Pacific, for example, small island states are custodians of 30 million square kilometres of ocean, or one-sixth of the earth's surface. Similarly, better monitoring of hurricanes and tropical storms would stand to benefit other countries, not only small islands which are the most vulnerable to such storms.

"The Conference is a process, not an end in itself," says Mr. Mountain. "One important aim will be to get people to come to grips with the problems of island countries."

New book offers data on UNDP projects worldwide

UNDP has more than 5,700 ongoing projects in nearly 175 countries. Slightly under one-third of these project are carried out in the Africa region. The Asia-Pacific region takes up the second largest share of ongoing projects, followed by Latin America and Caribbean region, the Arab States, and Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. A typical UNDP-supported project costs less than $400,000, and very few countries have more than 70 projects that receive support. These and other basic UNDP facts are contained in UNDP's 23rd edition of the *Compendium of Ongoing Projects*, a complete listing of operational projects as of the beginning of 1993.



The first section of this informative volume includes easy-to-read charts and graphs which indicate various features of the UNDP portfolio of projects. The charts delineate the programme by source of budgetary allocations, by types of projects according to region, by sectoral distribution of projects, and by the number of projects in a given country.

The next section of the *Compendium* lists all projects by country, indicating funding sources, executing agencies, and estimated completion dates of each project. The final section provides information on the countries participating in intercountry projects. The *Compendium of Ongoing Projects* is available at the United Nations book store for $25. The ISBN number is 92-1-126033-7.

Approved projects

(all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

El Salvador – Agricultural Sector Reform – The government has requested UNDP to formulate a major agricultural sector reform and investment programme. This project will transform the National Agricultural Technological Center (CENTA) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) into modern and efficient institutions. To achieve these aims, the project will help manage the institutional planning, human resources development, and information systems of MAG and CENTA. Project support will also help strengthen the agricultural research and extension services provided by CENTA to small and medium-sized agricultural producers.

Government cost-sharing: $17,835,000. Funds will finance international and national advisory and consulting services in such areas as planning, personnel management, information, agricultural legislation, and plant and animal research. Executed and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. (ELS/93/011)

El Salvador – Support for the Electoral Process – The Peace Accords signed in 1991 recognize the need to reform the electoral system and the Electoral Code in El Salvador. This project will strengthen the institutional capabilities of the newly established Supreme Electoral Tribunal to become an efficient and impartial electoral body that can ensure credible elections. The electoral rolls will be updated, and delegates, members of the Oversight Committees and employees of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal will be trained.

Contribution from bilateral agencies through the UNDP Trust Fund to support to peace building activities in El Salvador: $4,169,699. Funds will provide training, equipment and sub-contracts for computer installation. Executed and implemented by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. (ELS/93/L04)

Interregional Project

INT/92/213 – Support to Country Capacity for National Forest Programmes – This interregional project will support capacity building in developing countries that are managing national forest programmes (NFP).

UNDP contribution: $200,000. Swedish International Development Authority contribution: $800,000. Funds will finance training, and national and international experts in participatory forest sector programming. Executed and implemented by governments of participating countries.

Editor: Cherie Hart
Tel: (212) 906 5304
Fax: (212) 906 5364

Boundaries and names shown on maps do not imply official endorsement by the United Nations.

Printed on recycled paper

United Nations
Development Programme
One United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017